specific. The measures include delicensing of most of the food processing (except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale industries) and provision of fiscal incentives. The Ministry also operates development Plan Schemes under which financial assistance is provided for the development of food" processing industries to State Government Organisations/Joint Sector/ Assisted Sector/Voluntary Organisations/ Cooperatives etc.

As per the existing policy, beer units can be set only in centrally declared category A or B backward areas.

As per available information, the State Government of Punjab, in its new Industrial Policy, recognises agro-based industries as a thrust area and provides special package of incensitives. The whole State, including backward districts and border areas of Punjab, is eligible for such investment incentives, sales tax exemption/deferment and generator set subsidy etc. subject to certain conditions.

Scheme for fruit and vegetable processing sector in Maharashtra

572. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any scheme for strengthening backward linkages between the farmers and the processors in the fruit and vegetable processing sector in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Govemment is also playing any role in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the other measures being taken by Govemment to promote fruit and vegetable processing sector in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Plan scheme for strengthening of backward linkages which seeks to provide assistance in the form of re-imbursement to the extent of 5% of total purchases of raw fruits and vegetables made by the processor in a given year, Limited to Rs. 10 lakhs.

The processing company seeking such assistance would be required to supply high quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and technology, and also do other extension work for the contracted farmers/growers, who shall not be less than 25 in number.

The processing company/unit, which may be in private sector, assisted sector, joint sector, cooperative sector or a NGO, can avail such assistance for a maximum period of 3 years.

This scheme is being implemented all over the country including the State of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) State Governments have designated nodal agencies for the development of food processing industries in their respective states. These agencies, inter-alia, monitor the schemes for strengthening of backward linkages.

(e) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various development plan schemes which provide assistance for setting up of fruit &. vegetable based industries, including their expansion and upgradation, in various States including Maharashtra. However, none of these developmental plan schemes in state specific.

Invention of a Solar Energy Device by An "Indo-Canadian Engineer"

573. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated 22nd December, 1996 to the effect

that an Indo-Canadian engineer has invented a solar energy device which could help to provide inexpensive power to energy starved villages; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prof. Anand Sharan of the Memorial University, New Foundland, Canada has developed a tracking system for use in solar photovoltaic power systems. The system can be used to move solar panels during the day so that they face the sun continuously. He has claimed that this enhances the energy output from the solar panels by about 35—40%. Such tracking systems use motors and electronic circuits and consume a part of the power generated from the solar panels.

At present simple manual tracking systems which consume no energy are , already in use in India especially in solar photovoltaic (PV) water pumping systems. These tracking systems are capable of generating about 25—30% extra power compared to the fixed type solar panels. In general tracking systems are not considered very useful for small capacity PV lighting systems normally in use in rural areas.

Potential of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in M.P.

574. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the potentials to develop non-conventional energy sources in Madhya Pradesh have been ascertained;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the year-wise allocations made for the development of various energy sources during the current Plan-period; and

(d) what is the up to date position of non-conventional energy sources in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARTAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The estimated potentials for the installation of Improved Chulhas and Biogas plants in the State of Madhya Pradesh are 1,00,00,000 (one crore) 14,91,200 respectively. Broad potentials of other non-conventional energy source* estimated on country wide basis, are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) The year-wise funds released to the State of Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93 to 1996-97 for the development of various non-conventional energy sources are given in the enclosed statement-ll *(See* below).

(d) The status of non-conventional energy projects and devices installed in Madhya Pradesh under various programmes of the Ministry upto December, 1996, is given in the enclosed statement III.

Statement-I

Potential of various types of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE) and technologies in India are given below;—

Source/Technology	Approx. Potential Availability
Biogas Plants	40 Million Nos. 17,000
Biomass/Bioenergy	MW